

World's Series To Start October Eighth Toss Of Coin Will Determine City

BY B. B. CADDLE.

ACCORDING to Ben Johnson, president of the American League, the national baseball commission has selected October 8, as the day which will inaugurate the 1918 world's series between Boston, pennant winner of the National League, and Philadelphia, pennant winner of the American League. This is the day following the close of both major seasons and neither pennant winner will find much time to rest.

The national baseball commission announced that instead of the pennant winners alternating each day as New York and Philadelphia did in 1917, two games will be played consecutively in each city. The series of the city which the opening games will be played has not yet been determined. It will be decided by the flipping of a coin by Connie Mack, pilot of the Athletics, and George Stallings of the Braves.

The team winning the flip of the coin will start the series with a big advantage. Naturally the players of a team are worked up to a high tension when they start a world's series and if they can start on their home grounds they have the fans with them.

It would be a greater advantage for Boston to win the flip of the coin than it would for the Athletics. The American League pennant winners are seasoned veterans and have participated in many world's series. They will be able to stand the strain of playing away from home before a crowd of some 40,000 cheering fans.

But with Boston it is different. Aside from Everett there is not a player on the club that has ever participated in a world's series. The majority of the players on the Boston club are youngsters, and it would be a big advantage to them to start playing on their home ground where the fans would be rooting for them.

Boston's victory over the Cincinnati Reds yesterday completed with the Giants' defeat at the hands of St. Louis blew out the last ray of hope for the New York team.

The Giants are 15 percent weaker than they were last year. The Yankees, on the other hand, are in the first division next year. Marquard seems about as good as a big league hurler. He has lost 12 straight and was hammered hard in every one of them.

Just what is the matter with the team? Does it have a slump? Or is it just a matter of time before they will be back to their old selves?

Probably not even Stallings himself, with all his optimism, looked for such a buy-eyed dash after the vicissitudes of the early season, while the rest of the baseball world has been utterly flabbergasted.

The drive of the Braves during the past few weeks establishes the worthy chief of the Bostonians as one of the great and attractive managers of all time. He has always been recognized as a great leader, after the first two months of the season.

It is very likely that Stallings, Crutcher and Davis will go to the bulk of the team. This will give the "big three" sufficient to enter the series in the pink of condition.

The Braves were strongly touted in the winter months as one of the great teams of 1918, but the fans were touting them then in the belief that Stallings would be able to muster a higher grade of playing ability than he had when the curtain went up.

The addition of Evers was regarded as making the team a certain contender from the opening day, but after a few weeks had elapsed the Braves went into the discard of public opinion. One of the ablest managers in baseball said to the writer:

"It is going to hurt Stallings for having been up as well as he was last season. Because he has got a ball club that is very very bad club. It is not as good as last year by a long way and he will be lucky if he doesn't get hurt."

Knows He's Wrong.

For a while it looked as if the manager spoke with prophetic vision, but now this same manager is viewing the wild dash of the Boston club with some apprehension.

There is no doubt about the comparative mediocrity of Stallings' band, taking them individually, but as a team they represent one of the most formidable combinations in the land, and that is why Stallings' triumph is all the greater.

Golden Claims Curve Ball.

This article is in receipt of a letter from a delegation of fans who make their headquarters at Duke's Cafe, in Waterford, N. Y., stating that there is a man in the world who claims to have introduced the curve ball. His name is Jack Golden, and he has friends who are willing to back his assertions with real money.

In his younger days, it is stated, Golden was a pitcher of considerable skill, although he never reached the big leagues. His particular claim is that he was the first man to introduce what is commonly called the "drop" curve, but no evidence is submitted in the letter in support of the claim.

Credit for the discovery of the curve ball has always been given by baseball people to "Candy" Cummings, of the Stars, of Brooklyn, in 1892, and volumes have been written on the subject. That was many years ago—in the early days of the game, and numerous variations of the curve have since been introduced.

If the Waterford friends of Mr. Golden will submit a more detailed statement of his claims he will gladly present same to the world, but he will probably have a hard time getting the baseball people to recognize him as the Columbus of the over-throwing throw after all these years.

Baseball history is rather vague on many points, and old followers of the game can point out numerous inaccuracies. In nearly every time that has been written, including the professional grade of the celebrated A. G. Spalding, but all historians seem to unite in giving credit for the curve to William Arthur Cummings, Spalding's and Reach's Golden, and Baldwin, the work of George "Fingers" Marquand, the well known statistician, say that Cummings was responsible.

The credit has been disputed, of course, but there is no generally accepted date any time credit is assigned for anything in baseball. When it was finally agreed.

that Elmer Stricklett was the discoverer of the "spit" ball, numerous antiquarians of the game asserted that other pitchers had used the spitball back yonder in the long ago, although it seemed to have been buried up to the time Stricklett brought it back into use.

Even when Stricklett was generally credited with the discovery, or the resurrection of the cuspidarius curve, friends and admirers of Jack Chesbro invariably insisted that it was Jack who "perfected" the spitball.

He perfected it to such a degree that he finally helped line pennant for the Yankees with it. It is practically impossible to dig up anything in baseball literature that was not done four years ago—according to the old timers, and they are doubtless right.

NEW DEMOCRATIC CLUB TO ELECT NEW MEMBERS.

The Democratic City and County club will meet Friday evening to consider new members and to plan for the city campaign. The membership in the newly organized political club is increasing rapidly and there are now 200 members who have joined since it was started two weeks ago.

An auxiliary club is also being organized among the Mexican voters who will be closely affiliated with the City and County club, its members say.

POPE SENDS MESSAGE OF GOOD WILL TO AMERICA.

Boston, Mass., Sept. 25.—Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, and cardinal O'Connell, of Boston, returning from Rome, where they had hastened to attend the papal conclave, arrived Thursday on the White Star liner Canopic.

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